LOYAL

AND

Ingenuous Returns,

OF

GRATITUDE

FROM THE

Royal Party,

TO HIS

MAJESTY

AND THE

PARLIAMENT.

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Loyall and ingenuous returns of Gratitude from the Royal Party, to His Majesty and the Parliament.

THough we never doubted of our Princes favour, Or the Parliaments noble and candid intentions towards us, Nor wanted that consideration of his Majesties urgent affairs, and our own Duties, which became our Loyaltie: Yet such were the pressures, under which many of us have lien, in relation to our present and daily subsistance, without any visible appearance of better hopes, that it rendred the very thought of further expectation almost desperate, Whereof we begg the Charitable Censure of those that love us, since the best of men, (under long and important trialls,) have sometimes languished.

The dark lines, which seemed to be drawn upon the Face of honour, by the slender Notice taken of our Constant Sufferings, and Confusion, (as wee jndged,) of causes and interests, (in themselves, very different,) wrought, in us, many discouragements, and some Perturbations, Whilst, (perhaps too Curiously,) wee enquired the meaning, And perplexed

our ſelves, in Vain, to conſider the tendency of ſuch Counſells; We ſuſpected, leaſt ſome miſrepreſentation of us to his Majeſty, under Characters full of Prejudice, might have turned his thoughts into another Channel, Or ſuſpended his Natural, and, (as it were) Paternal inclinations towards us; We were, indeed, ſenſibly touched to find the Continuance of our Miſeries, frequently converted to our further reproach; But, above all, we feared, leaſt overmuch indulgence to great Offendors, and ſleight Proſelytes, might afford them colour of defending, Or at leaſt, extenuating their Crimes, in an Age ſo groſſely Catechiſed, that it is apt to miſtake Impunity for Innocency, and aſcribe ſinfull Proſperity to divine Benediction.

It added much to the Weight of our misfortunes to Obſerve, That many of our former, (and ſtill ſuppoſed,) Friends were not, (as we thought,) enough concerned for us, But having ſerved their own interests, preſently forſook ours, And began to look upon us as a kinde of troubleſom gueſts, whom they could not fairly ſhunne or diſown, yet entertained very unwillingly; Neither was it the leaſt of our Afflictions, in ſuch a throng of pretences, to bee the Perſons, laſt, and (in appearance) leaſt conſidered.

His Majeſty in his late Gracious Speech to the Parliament, generouſly expreſſing his Royal Senſe of our Condition, his deſire, but withall his diſability to help us, did thereby (tacitely, but effectually) recommend us to their honourable and prudent thoughts, And the Parliament, in a Noble Compliance with his Majeſties wiſhes, (though by us unſollicited,) hath, in ſome meaſure anſwered our Petition,

tion, before we presented it, by selecting a Committee to consider expedients for our Reparation, thus by their wisdom, anticipating our Addresses; So as now it appears, The delay proceeded not from any unbenigne Aspect or Eclipse of his Majesties favour towards us, But must be imputed to invincible Exigence, and reasons of Government, best known to his Majesty, the only competent Judge of publick Convenience.

To his Sacred Majesty, therefore, (as our undoubted Patron,) in the first place, with all humility, we acknowledge whatsoever benefit is conferred upon us, who, together with his own weightiest concernments, so pathetically declared and imprinted his Sense of ours; Not forgetting alwayes to celebrate the Cheerfullness of this renowned Parliament, in entertaining the first Ouverture on our behalf, and considering our Necessities, even (in a time of Publick pressure,) amongst the Crying debts, and important affairs of the Kingdom.

It is this which will (and, indeed, only can,) recollect the shipwracks of weather-beaten Loyalty, and recover Vertue out of its deepest trance; This, at once, will reinforce the Spirits of drooping integrity, and check the triumph of prosperous and presumptuous Crimes; The Armour, which was grown rusty with disuse, and neglect, will shine again, And the Sword, which had lost its edge, cut sharper then Ever; Even Prudent men will not think it rashnesse to venture their Lives and fortunes in the discharge of their Duties, nor digest the ruine of their Families, before they Embrace the Service of their Countrey.

What

What a Spurre of honour will it afford the present Age, to see the Wounds of Loyalty so dressed? What a famous *Precedent* will it transmit to future times, to find the Breaches of Vertue so repaired! And who so *Politick*, that he will hereafter scruple to embarque himself in his Countreys bottome, where he cannot perish, but in the **Common Calamity**, which no good man would wish to survive?

What a Vindication will it be to *Publick* Faith, (now blasted with the Scandal of Bankrout Authorities,) When Obligations of meer Honour and Confidence shall be recorded in the Nature of publick debts! What may they borrow, that are such *Pay*-masters? And how just may they be presumed in the performance of a Contract, who are so noble in the discharge of a trust?

The old Stock of Royallists (such, as without other Summons, then their Duty, other Inducement, then the Justice of their Cause, or encouragement, then the goodnesse of their Prince, freely exposed themselves, and their Estates, to follow his Majesties Ensigns in the first War, and have, ever since, Crowned their Zeal with Perseverance,) is now reduced into a narrow Circuit; Tyranny hath dispatched many, Time hath devoured more, and Misery so disguised the Remainder of them, (at least for the Major Part,) that it is scarce discernable, what they once were; Behold a Miracle, which will, even, raise the dead out of their graves, at least, restore the lame to their Limbs, a husbandry which will propagate a generation truly English and loyal, and cherish, as it were, an immortal Seed-Plot or Nursery for a Royal Plantation.

The

The ſettlement of a Competent Revenue for the Support of Regal Dignity, and an Effectual Militia for the Curbing of Factions, is the great Work of this ſeaſon, in the accompliſhment whereof, our very beings are concerned; But the preſervation of Loyal Veteranes is Certainly of Equal Moment; It will ſerve, upon all Occaſions, as a bank of Credit, and an Army of Volunteers at his Majeſties call.

It is not to be uttered, What impreſſion this Overture hath already made in our hearts, what a Change in our very Countenances, Not any Cloud or Symptome of diſſatisfaction appearing amongſt us, We only regret, that we cannot grow young again for his Majeſties ſervice, That none of us hath more lives then one, to hazard for him, And (could it be without Publick Ruine) would be content to repeat whatſoever we acted, or ſuffered, in the War, or ſince.

Not that we ſwallow mountains, (as ſome injuriouſly ſuggeſt and Report,) Such monſtrous expectations better became their greedineſſe, who, in the exaction of unjuſt Arrears, ſo often tormented the Nation with their Mutinies, and put their Countrey almoſt to a yearly Ranſome; The Principle, we have ſtill aſſerted, is that of Modeſt and Entire Obedience, and we are beholden to them, that have taught us Patience, in the greateſt Neceſſities: Which, having ſo long practiſed under Tyrants, We are not ſurely in danger, now, to forfeit, or tranſgreſs: No; the Eſtabliſhment of our King, and Peace of our Countrey, alone, afford us ſuch entertainment, that it were wantonneſſe in us to dream of other Dainties, A bare ſubſiſtance with his Majeſties Welcome, is great cheer.

And

And, indeed, we doubt not, but all good Engliſh-men are ſo ſenſible both of our innocent ſufferings, and our honeſt pretences, that they will readily contribute to our ſupport, Who, for their ſakes, and by aſſerting their intereſt, are brought to a Condition of deſiring it; let them turn the Tables, and they will ſoon find, how conſiderable an Advantage they have, in whoſe Power it is to oblige; Which, we truſt they will neither ſacrifice to themſelves, nor object to us: We ſuppoſe better things of our Countrymen, Eſpecially ſuch, as having alwayes profeſſed to accompany us, at leaſt, with their good Opinion, and beſt Wiſhes, cannot honourably abandon us in our preſent Want, or grudge us their Superfluity.

The Meaſure we ſubmit to his Majeſties goodneſs, whoſe *P*rerogative it is to conferre Royally, The Means we leave to the *P*arliaments Wiſdome, whoſe property it is to determine and act maturely, Humbly beſeeching them to perfect their kindneſſe towards us, with this Charitable Belief, That it is our Nature to expect reaſonably.

FINIS.